

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Ward McDaniel earns FAC Advanced County Commissioner Designation

--Florida Association of Counties graduates McDaniel from secondary certification program--

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FL –The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) presented Gulf County Commissioner McDaniel with the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) designation following his completion of a comprehensive study program developed by the association. Commissioner McDaniel received the designation along with 13 other county commissioners during an awards ceremony held at the FAC Annual Conference in Hillsborough County, FL.

Commissioner McDaniel commented that “the instructors of these classes are very qualified. There is a lot of very valuable information taught that involves county government. However, it also provides teaching of state and federal issues as well.

I encourage any new commissioners to get their certifications. It will be very beneficial to them and their constituents.”

Launched by FAC in 2006, the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) education program, "The Florida Forum for County Leaders," is an advanced leadership program designed for graduates of the Certified County Commissioners (CCC) program. This year, the program has been held in Alachua County and saw 14 commissioners graduate in June with a total of 132 graduating since the inception of the program in 2006.

“This certification allows our citizen electorate to become experts in county government improving their communities,” said FAC Executive Director Chris Holley. “Through FAC’s education programs we are able to teach commissioners how to advance their policies through the complexities of government bureaucracies.”

The ACC program is organized as a series of three seminars, with 27 hours of course work. The course content focuses on leading within Florida’s counties. Participating Commissioners must commit to fully participate in all three seminars in order to graduate. Seminars include: Leadership in these Turbulent and Transformative Times; Leading Your Communities During Turbulent Times; and, Understanding and Working with Stakeholders and County Makers. The University of Florida/IFAS Extension has sponsored this program for the last six years in Alachua County.

Following are the names of the county commissioners who received their ACC designation in 2013: Jimmy Anderson, Baker County; Betsy Barfield, Jefferson County; Kathy Braynt, Marion County; Paulette Burdick, Palm Beach County; Pam Feagle, Taylor County; Chip LaMarca,

Broward County; Ward McDaniel, Gulf County; John R. Nelson, Sr., Jefferson County; Dave Parisot, Okaloosa County; Jim Selph, DeSoto County; Barbara Sharief, Broward County; Tynalin Smiley, Gulf County; Gene Valentino, Escambia County; Cark Zalak, Marion County.

For more information about the ACC program and courses, visit the FAC web site at www.fl-counties.com.

For 80 years, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule – the concept that government closest to the people governs best. The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration.

